

NASA Test Rotors for Quiet Research

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NASA Tweaks Tech Toolbox to Capture Rotor Results 06.07.2010



"Smooth" and "quiet" are two words not usually associated with a helicopter ride, but NASA is working to change that. A full-size UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter rotor was the subject of tests the agency's Subsonic Rotary Wing Project recently completed in collaboration with the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force at NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.

The test series, conducted from January to May 2010, was designed to gather data on the rotor blades and air movement that the blades create. Since most helicopter noise and vibration can be blamed on the interactions between the blades and the air, the data will be extremely valuable to rotor researchers trying to understand these effects.

Ultimately, the data gathered in the tests can be used to design advanced helicopters in the future.